



May 2004

Dear Colleague:

The Office of English Language Acquisition (OELA), U.S. Department of Education, will hold its Third Annual ***Celebrate Our Rising Stars*** Summit, **Tuesday to Thursday October 5-7, 2004**, at the Hilton Washington and Towers Hotel in Washington, DC. We are contacting you now because the Summit will be held soon after the 2004-2005 school year begins and we want to afford each participant the maximum amount of planning time to attend this important event.

As we have visited states, districts and schools across the country, we've noted that the key to making public education work for our English language learners are entire educational systems where parts operate together to focus on the achievement of all students. During this year's Summit we want to discuss those parts, how they must be effectively aligned, and your role in assisting your school to make stars out of your ELL students.

The theme of this year's Summit is "**Integrating Essential Elements for ELL Success**," featuring sessions set up to highlight the big picture while exploring the individual roles of parents, teachers, state and district officials, researchers and teacher educators. We strongly encourage you to plan to attend this year's Summit.

Register for the OELA Summit:

On-line registration for the Summit will begin on **Monday, May 10, 2004**. You will be able to register on-line by logging on to OELA's National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition's (NCELA) website: <http://www.salemne.com/risingstars3/> There you will find links to an OELA Summit overview, Hilton Hotel reservation information and the OELA Summit Registration Form.

The OELA Summit Registration deadline is **Monday, September 13, 2004**. The registration fee for the OELA Summit is \$295 per person made payable to Barrera Associates, Inc., at 733 15th Street NW, Suite 1120, Washington, DC 20005-6003. Visa, MasterCard and American Express will be accepted as well.

Reserve a Room for the OELA Summit

A block of hotel sleeping rooms has been set aside at the Hilton Washington for OELA Summit attendees. Through **Monday, September 13, 2004**, rates are set at \$150 single, \$170 double, and \$20 per additional person for standard rooms. The rates are exclusive of appropriate state and local taxes, currently 14.5%. **No first night deposit** will be required at the time your reservation is made, although

you will need to provide a credit card number to guarantee your room for late arrival.

Make reservations by:

Using the Internet and going to the Hilton's website:

<http://www.Hilton.com>. Locate the Hilton Washington Hotel & Towers and enter Group **DOE** to receive the special group rate or you may telephone the Hilton Washington Hotel at 202-483-3000 or Hilton National Reservations at 800-774-1500. Request Group **DOE** to reserve the special group rate. The cut off date for hotel reservations is **September 13, 2004**, but we encourage you to reserve your room as soon as possible, since space is limited.

Remember to save the dates: **October 5-7, for the OELA Summit**, in the Nation's Capitol.

We look forward to seeing you. The Summit will not be a complete success without you!

Sincerely,

(Signed)

Maria Hernandez Ferrier, Ed.D.
Deputy Under Secretary and Director
Office of English Language Acquisition, USDE